

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 70

Introduced by Senator Hancock

(Coauthors: Senators Pavley and DeSaulnier)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Block, Carter, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lieu, Monning, Portantino, Salas, Silva, Skinner, and Solorio)

February 9, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to the 22nd Annual State Scientist Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 70, as amended, Hancock. 22nd Annual State Scientist Day.

This measure would declare May 19, 2010, as the 22nd Annual State Scientist Day, as a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who work on behalf of all Californians.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of California employs nearly 3,000
- 2 professional scientists in over 30 state departments working in
- 3 more than 230 scientific classifications; and
- 4 WHEREAS, State scientists hold graduate degrees in virtually
- 5 every scientific discipline, including nematology, virology,
- 6 seismology, epidemiology, toxicology, and many others; and
- 7 WHEREAS, State scientists are represented by the California
- 8 Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), which is dedicated
- 9 to professionalism, independence, responsible advocacy, and
- 10 ensuring that state scientists receive ~~fair pay and benefits~~
- 11 *recognition* for their important work; and

1 WHEREAS, The work of state scientists protects the public
2 from life-threatening diseases, safeguards our wildlife and abundant
3 natural resources, and protects our air and water from toxic waste
4 and pollution; and

5 WHEREAS, State scientists are required to make critical
6 decisions every day based on rigorous scientific factfinding and
7 these decisions ultimately impact the lives and property of all
8 Californians; and

9 ~~WHEREAS, The Governor wrote in October 2007 that “I value~~
10 ~~the dedication and work of the State’s scientists, and I am~~
11 ~~concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind those~~
12 ~~of comparable workers” and that he wants to ensure “that the State~~
13 ~~is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable~~
14 ~~compensation for the scientists”;~~ and

15 ~~WHEREAS, If California loses its scientific expertise, the state~~
16 ~~will go unarmed in the battles against greenhouse gas emissions,~~
17 ~~air pollution, and the overall protection of children’s health,~~
18 ~~according to a 2006 California Environmental Protection Agency~~
19 ~~report;~~ and

20 WHEREAS, State scientists perform important work in the areas
21 of infectious disease prevention, oil spill prevention and cleanup,
22 public health drinking water monitoring, the protection of
23 agricultural crops, brownfields mitigation, chemical and
24 radiological disaster response, and much more; and

25 WHEREAS, State scientists host an annual State Scientist Day
26 at the State Capitol to increase public awareness and recognition
27 of the significant contributions made by scientists working in state
28 government while entertaining and educating over 2,000
29 elementary school students with fun, hands-on science exhibits,
30 including digging for hidden artifacts, viewing live fish in a
31 1,500-gallon tank, and playing Pollution Prevention “Wheel of
32 Fortune” and Coastal Creature “Jeopardy”; and

33 WHEREAS, State Scientist Day has sparked an interest in
34 science for thousands of California school children, legislators,
35 state employees, and the public who attend the special event; now,
36 therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That May 19, 2010, shall be recognized as the
39 22nd Annual State Scientist Day, and that this day shall be a tribute

- 1 to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who
- 2 work on behalf of all Californians; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 4 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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